Standard Organisation of Railways is engaged in indepth studies for raising the speed of Mail and Express Trains to 160 kms. per hour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the speed of the trains is likely to be increased to that level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RDSO has drawn a Technology Development Plan which provides for operation of passenger services upto 160 km/h. A Status paper bringing out projects required to be undertaken in fields of formation, track, bridges, hauling power, OHE system, coaching stock, signalling and telecommunication etc. has been prepared by RDSO.

(c) The studies are likely to be completed in a period of about 5 years from the time these are taken up. The increase of speeds will depend upon developing the requisite infrastructure, trained man-power etc. based on the result of studies.

Improvement in passenger amenities in trains and on platforms

121. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any special steps on priority basis to further improve passenger amenities in running trains and on the platforms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what amount has been earmarked for the purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are explained in the Statement attached. (*See* below)

(c) An amount of Rs. 24.12 crores has been earmarked in the Budget for the year 1988-89.

Statement

A separate Directorate of Passenger Amenities has been set up in the Ministry of Railways to ensure effective coordination in implementing the policy guidelines, ensure adequate response and cater expeditiously to the needs of the travelling public.

While at the Zonal Railways Headquarters level the Additional General Managers have been entrusted with the task of coordination in respect of all aspects of passenger amenities, at the Divisional level, one ADRM on each Division has been nominated for coordinating and monitoring all aspects of passenger amenities covering all departments.

Improvement of facilities/amenities for the passengers is a continuous process. Some of the improvements made or proposed to be made in long distance trains and on platforms are listed below:—

(i) Drinking water facilities have been provided on all important long distance trains and stations.

(ii) Provision of bed rolls to passengers in important Mail/Express trains.

(iii) Introduction of casserole service in selected trains for serving hot/tasty food in hygienic condition to passengers.

(iv) On long distance trains, all wooden seats in Second Class Coaches are progressively being converted into cushion type.

(v) Water tank capacity of each lavatory on broad gauge has been increased from 1272 litres to 1820 litres and on metre gauge from 960 litres to 1206 litres per coach.

(vi) To reduce overcrowding and to provide greater travelling

comfort, First Class Coaches are being replaced with II A.C. Sleepers.

(vii) Replacement of 24 Volt battery system with End-on and Mid-on Generation system.

(viii) Rings below the lower berths provided to enable the passengers to secure their boxes, suit cases, etc. using their own chains and padlocks.

(ix) To improve ventilation, the number of fans in each bay/compartment have been increased from 2 to 3. To provide the increased number of fans, the generating capacity has been increased from 3 KW to 4.5 KW.

(x) In addition to provision of Basic amenities at different stations both regular/flag and halt stations, Railways are also providing some additional amenities like Waiting Rooms, Retiring Rooms, Refreshment Rooms, Platform Shelter, etc. in a phased manner keeping in view the volume of traffic dealt with at the Station subject to availability of funds.

Restoration of peak speed of trains

122. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restore the peak speed of most of superfast mail and express trains, hauled by electric locos, from November this year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

दिल्ली और कानपुर के बीच ई० एम० यू० गाड़ियां

123. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली और कानपुर के बीच ई० एम० यू० गाड़ियां चलाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) इन गाड़ियों के कब तक प्रारम्भ कर दिये जाने की संभावना है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री महाबीर प्रसाद) : (क) और (ख) दिल्ली-कानपुर जैसे खण्डों पर बिजली गाड़ी सेट टाइप के परिचालन परीक्षण करने का प्रस्ताव है। इस समय कोई समय सीमा नहीं बतायी जा सकती है।

इलाहाबाद जंक्शन पर खान-पान के स्टाल

124. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इलाहाबाद जंक्शन पर प्लेटफार्मों पर खान-पान के स्टालों की कुल संख्या क्या है ;

(ख) पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान कितने और प्लेटफार्मों की संख्या बढ़ाई गयी है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार प्लेटफार्मों की बढ़ी हुई संख्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए स्टालों की संख्या में भी वृद्धि करने का विचार रखती है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री महावीर प्रसाद) : (क) 11.

(ख) एक द्वीप प्लेटफार्म।

(ग) जी नहीं। इलाहाबाद के प्लेटफार्मों पर अत्यधिक भीड़ रहती है और